

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

After the title and before the section heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", please insert the following new paragraph:

### **--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is a Continuation under 35. U.S.C. § 120 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/347,071 filed July 2, 1999.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph.

An exemplary embodiment of valve 72 according to the principles of the present invention will now be discussed below with reference to Figs. 5-9 and with continuing reference to Fig. 4. Valve 72, which is also referred to as a valve assembly due to the fact that the valve is defined by a number of parts, includes a hollow, first or inner cylinder 80, which includes a center barrel 82, a first barrel 84 and a second barrel 86. First barrel 84 and second barrel 86 are positioned at opposite ends of center barrel 82 and coaxially therewith. Inner cylinder 80 has an open first end 88, an open second end 90, a blower discharge slot 92 defined in a wall of second barrel 86 and an exhaust intake slot 94 defined in the wall of second barrel 86 between blower discharge slot 92 and second end 90. A separating plate 96 (shown in phantom in Fig. 5) is positioned in inner cylinder 80 and, more particularly, in second barrel 86, between blower discharge slot 92 and exhaust intake slot 94 for obstructing or ~~prevent~~preventing the flow of gas therebetween.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph.

A coil 104 is secured around outer cylinder 100 in magnetic flux coupled relation with magnet 98. ~~It~~ It should be noted that Fig. 9-5 illustrates a portion of outer cylinder 100 without the coil. The present invention contemplates that coil 104 can be attached to the end of the portion of the outer cylinder shown in Fig. 9 or can be wound around the outer cylinder as shown in Figs. 6B and 7B. As shown in Figs. 5, 6B, and 7B, a wire 106 extends from coil 104 for passing a current through the coil. Coil 104 is configured to receive DC current from controller 28. According to one embodiment of the present invention, in response to receiving DC current of a first polarity, coil 104 urges outer cylinder 100 axially relative to inner cylinder 80 in a first direction indicated by arrow 103 in Fig. 7A. When displaced to the maximum amount possible in the first direction, first slot 102 in outer cylinder 100 and blower discharge slot 92 in inner cylinder 80 are aligned and outer cylinder 100 obstructs exhaust intake slot 94 of inner cylinder 80. Figs. 7A and 7B illustrate outer cylinder 100 displaced as far as possible in the first direction with first slot ~~100-102~~ 102 and blower discharge slots 92 being generally aligned with one another so that a flow of gas, as indicated by arrow 108, flows from the pressure generator out of the aperture 110 defined by the overlap of first slot ~~100-102~~ 102 and blower discharge slots 92. Movement of outer cylinder 100 relative to inner cylinder 80 changes the size of aperture 110 to control a degree of restriction for the flow of gas 108 from the pressure generator into the second conduit, i.e., into patient circuit 19.